General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 22 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/441/Add.1)*]

68/224. Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolutions 67/220 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46 of 26 July 2013 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] Resolution 68/6.

Please recycle

Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2013,[4]

Taking note also of the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, entitled "State of the least developed countries 2013",

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[5] and on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries;[6]

2. *Expresses serious concern* that, after a decade of welcomed steady economic growth, the least developed countries are facing significant challenges in sustaining their economic growth and that their economies are estimated to have grown by 3.3 per cent in 2012, which is considerably below the target of 7 per cent per annum set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[2]

3. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for the deployment of appropriate regional and international in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Expresses its concern* that all countries, particularly the least developed countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, glacial lake outburst floods and ocean acidification, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

5. *Underscores* that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with themselves, and also underscores that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of the least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnership;

6. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; trade; commodities; human and social development; multiple crises and other emerging challenges; mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building; and good governance at all levels, and in this regard calls upon the development partners and invites all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to provide, in accordance with their respective

[4] A/C.2/68/3.

[5] A/68/88-E/2013/81 and Corr.1.

[6] A/68/217.

mandates, enhanced, predictable and targeted substantive and technical support to the least developed countries;

7. *Calls upon* the least developed countries and their development partners to ensure enhanced focus on policies and means to address productive capacity-building, and in this respect encourages them to give priority to expanding the access of women, youth and the poor to factors of production such as employability skills, finance, technology and land;

8. *Stresses* that the least developed countries should receive a special focus throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030, as well as other energy goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests that, in the Secretary-General's coordination of the Decade, within existing resources, the least developed countries should receive such special focus throughout, with a view to ensuring the successful realization of the Decade;

9. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to designate specific focal points or organizational units within their secretariat structures, with a view to ensuring consistent coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the agency level;

10. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

11. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence, in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

12. *Expresses concern* over the fall in official development assistance to the least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011 and, according to preliminary estimates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a further decline in net bilateral official development assistance of 12.8 per cent in 2012,[7] while noting that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to the least developed countries at the earliest possible time;

[7] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Aid to poor countries slips further as Governments tighten budgets", 3 April 2013.

13. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and invites donor countries to share with the General Assembly the results of such reviews at the earliest possible time as an input to the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

14. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, takes note of decisions 2012/1 of 3 February 2012 and 2012/28 of 10 September 2012 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Executive Board reiterated the allocation to least developed countries of a minimum of 60 per cent of its target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC-1) resources, and invites the governing bodies of other organizations of the United Nations development system and other multilateral organizations to prioritize allocations to least developed countries, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

15. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in the least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency and results orientation;

16. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

17. *Acknowledges* that trade has an important role in ensuring the sustainable economic development of the least developed countries and that the international trade architecture should continue to be supportive of and responsive to the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries;

18. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization [8] relating to the least developed countries, and encourages developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

19. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up to paragraph 145 of the Istanbul Programme of Action regarding the steps taken to ensure mutual accountability;

20. *Also underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

[8] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

21. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

22. *Expresses its concern* that, although the least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, many of the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to the least developed countries in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries by 2015;

23. *Reaffirms* the commitment made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9] to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

24. *Decides* that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in the processes devoted to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Notes with appreciation* the offer of Turkey to host a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations and in this regard:

(*a*) Requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of voluntary contributions, to constitute a high-level panel of experts drawn from the least developed countries and their development partners, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to carry out a feasibility study, with secretariat support provided, within existing resources, by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in order to examine its scope, functions, institutional linkage with the United Nations and organizational aspects, including by:

(i) Assessing the ability of a technology bank to promote scientific research and innovation and facilitate the diffusion and transfer of technologies to the least developed countries, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions, and with necessary protections for intellectual property;

(ii) Considering the current international institutional landscape, synergies and options for cooperation with relevant international technology initiatives, stakeholders and organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, and the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

(iii) Examining and outlining potential functions, activities, working methods, governance mechanisms, staffing arrangements and costs for a

[9] Resolution 66/288, annex.

technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism, including possible regional centres in the least developed countries;

(iv) Examining options for facilitating the necessary voluntary financial support to a technology bank for its establishment and effective and sustained functioning;

(*b*) Also requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report and the recommendations of the high-level panel of experts to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session for its consideration, with a view to operationalizing a technology bank during its seventieth session, if so recommended by the panel;

26. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

27. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

28. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries led by the Office of the High Representative, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, notes the steps taken by the Chief Executives Board and the High-level Committee in supporting coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, also reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board, and requests the Secretary-General to report on further progress made in this regard;

29. *Notes with appreciation* that the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations Development Group have issued operational guidelines for United Nations country teams operating in the least developed countries to follow up on the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country level, and requests the United Nations development system to ensure ongoing monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the guidelines;

30. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in Support of Activities Undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

31. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Benin to host a ministerial conference on new partnerships for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries during the first half of 2014, and looks forward to its successful outcome;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on the implementation of the present resolution.

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68/225. Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[1] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[2]

Recalling also its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007, 63/228 of 19 December 2008, 64/214 of 21 December 2009, 65/172 of 20 December 2010, 66/214 of 22 December 2011 and 67/222 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document[4] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,[5]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled "The future we want",[6]

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[1] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] Resolution 65/1.

[5] Resolution 68/6.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Please recycle

Taking note of the communiqué of the Twelfth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2013,[7]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

Recalling its resolution 66/214, in which it decided to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, which should be preceded, where necessary, by regional and global as well as thematic preparations,

Emphasizing that the result of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action should be the basis for further concerted global actions in support of landlocked developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries";[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,[9] to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[2] and calls upon landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

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[7] A/C.2/68/4.

[8] A/68/157.

[9] Resolution 63/2.

5. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to urgently address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the declaration on the midterm review;

7. *Invites* Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions on the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the declaration on the midterm review in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, the completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to enhance intraregional connectivity and strengthen analytical capacities to assist in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive transport policies to support the transit corridors needed to facilitate trade, and in this regard encourages enhanced regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation which offers more appropriate, direct and effective solutions in addressing landlocked and transit country issues;

8. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges faced by the international community, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and in protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

9. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks through the development of a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used by the landlocked developing countries for early warning purposes;

10. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation are particularly important in order for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services, as well as improved international competitiveness, resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

11. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements

of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

12. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technologies, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities;

13. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

14. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, and in this regard encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

15. *Recognizes* that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders, and in this regard encourages landlocked and transit developing countries to ratify and effectively implement, as appropriate, international conventions and agreements and regional and subregional agreements on transport and trade facilitation;

16. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States, including development partners, and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of

regional rail and road networks and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked and transit developing countries, encourages them to continue providing their support, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing efforts made by the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other relevant international and regional organizations, towards assisting in the elaboration of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highway;

18. *Urges* those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to accede to or to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to full operation, and invites the Office of the High Representative and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the think tank so that it can undertake its role;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the progress being made in the preparatory process for the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in its intergovernmental, inter-agency and private sector tracks, including the outcomes of the high-level global thematic meeting on international trade, trade facilitation and aid for trade, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 13 and 14 September 2012, and the regional review meetings on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, namely the Euro-Asia regional review meeting, held in Vientiane from 5 to 7 March 2013, the Africa regional review meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 July 2013, and the Latin America regional review meeting, held in Asunción on 18 and 19 November 2013;

20. *Welcomes* the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the 10-year Review Conference;

21. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative, as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the 10-year Review Conference, pursuant to resolution 66/214, and invites the United Nations Secretary-General to take necessary measures within existing resources to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

22. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the 10-year Review Conference itself;

23. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference and the participation of representatives of the landlocked developing countries in both the preparatory process and the 10-year Review Conference itself;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the 10-year review Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

25. *Recognizes* the special challenges and needs of the landlocked developing countries, and stresses the need to give appropriate consideration to the landlocked developing countries in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries a report on the 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the outcome of the 10-year Review Conference;

28. *Decides* to reschedule the first and second sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee to later dates, and reaffirms that the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee will be held in New York in 2014, each for a duration of two working days, in the most cost-effective manner and within the budget allocated, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/222;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organizational aspects of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, including the venue and the specific dates for the Conference and the two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, to be held for a duration of three days in 2014, in the most cost-effective manner and within the budget allocated, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/222, to be submitted to the Assembly not later than 15 January 2014 for its further consideration;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", a sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries".

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/442/Add.1)*]

68/226. Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/224 of 21 December 2012 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day[2] and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4]

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[5] adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, with a main aim of enabling half the number of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, entitled "Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development",

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Since 2008, United Nations reports on the Millennium Development Goals have been using, a poverty line of 1.25 United States dollars a day.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

13-45301 (E)

Please recycle

Taking note with appreciation of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development[6] and also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011 entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact",

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[7] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8]

Recalling also its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, and its outcome document,[9] and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,[10]

Acknowledging the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also acknowledging the central imperative of poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that there is a need to promote recovery, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

Concerned that, midway into the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

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[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] Resolution 65/1.

[10] Resolution 68/6.

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Recognizing also that corruption at all levels, including, inter alia, the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, and stressing the need for the return of these funds and assets to their countries of origin,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all,

Reaffirming also that women make significant contributions to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequality through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing also that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing further that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern that aggregate official development assistance fell in 2012 for the second consecutive year, and calling for the reverse of this decline,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging also that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the agenda item "Eradication of poverty and other development issues";[11]

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Also reaffirms* that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in this regard commits itself to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency;

4. *Further reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to urgently take measures to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger because of their negative impacts on sustainable development;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best policies, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda,

[11] A/68/183.

addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

10. *Stresses* the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

11. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities and be operated in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

12. *Recognizes* the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[12] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

15. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty, hunger and food security, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production and productivity, including of smallholder producers, in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

16. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

[12] A/63/539, annex.

17. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

19. *Also reaffirms* that, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 development agenda;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, health care and social protection;

21. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional, and invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measures that better reflect this multidimensionality;

22. *Acknowledges* that the eradication of poverty through the development of national capacities in developing countries should continue to be a core area of focus for the United Nations development system and that its development programmes and projects should attempt to address this greatest global challenge as their underlying objective;

23. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

24. *Reiterates its call upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

25. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the question of poverty eradication, reiterates in this regard its decision, in resolution 63/230 of 19 December 2008, as a contribution to the Second Decade, to convene at its sixty-eighth session a meeting of the General Assembly, at the highest appropriate political level, centred on the review process devoted to the theme relating to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012–2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

26. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the

best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

27. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization;

28. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

29. *Encourages* Member States to improve existing social protection systems and to continue developing and implementing social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

30. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

31. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[13] in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

32. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

33. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

34. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in

[13] Resolution 63/303, annex.

strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

35. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of efforts;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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